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DEBATES

IN THE

ASIATIC ASSEMBLY.

[Price One Shilling.]

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Gal.ª 5. W.b

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ASIATIC ASSEMBLY.

——rudis indigestaque moles.
OVID.

LONDON:

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

DEBATES

IN THE

ASIATIC ASSEMBLY.

THE compiler of theſe flowers of oratory is little ſkilled in the profeſſion of *writing*, and ſtill leſs in that of *publication*. His readers will be cruelly diſappointed if they expect to be entertained with any portion of taſte or imagination. He is not an author, but a collector from memory; and, unhappily for him, the greateſt part of his materials maintain an eternal war with genius and common ſenſe. The writer of a theatrical drama may contraſt his characters ſo fortunately, as to make dulneſs agreeable, and even diverting: he may draw humour from the mouth of a blockhead, or tear off the lion's ſkin which endeavours to conceal an aſs: but our induſtrious collater is reſtrained

by an invariable regard to truth, and dares not avail himſelf of theſe advantages. He confeſſes, with ſhame and mortification, that ſome of the principal characters of his work, are not endowed with the ſmalleſt glimpſe of genius or underſtanding. He laments, that many of the ſpeeches, which he preſents to the public, are compoſitions of pure, genuine, unadulterated nonſenſe. He moſt ſincerely begs pardon of the gentlemen by whom they were made, for having frequently fallen ſhort of the original dulneſs; but hopes they will enable him to repreſent them in truer colours at ſome future period, to the great entertainment of the Proprietors and their friends, the incomparable Twenty-four, with whoſe abilities, indeed, they ſeem to have a moſt perfect ſympathy.

The court being met, and the preſident ſeated amidſt his council, the buſineſs of the day was opened by Sir Janus Blubber, one of the principal orators of that learned and ingenious body of men, the magiſtrates of this metropolis. This reſpectable perſonage has been ſo remarkable for changing

ing ſides, that he is ſaid to poſſeſs every qualification neceſſary for a Jeſuit, except learning, propriety, and good manners, and is therefore frequently titled the Weathercock of Guildhall.—He began—"Mr. Preſident, Sir, as I intend to make a motion of the greateſt importance to the welfare, and even to the exiſtence of this company, it is neceſſary, *be the event what it will*, to beg gentlemen would not be prolix, for I hates prolixity: but before I proceed to the buſineſs in hand, and to *ſhew what ground we go upon*, I hope gelmen will excuſe me if I *ſpeaks* a few words, *in the firſt inſtance*, to recommend *order* and *unanimity*; for, upon my word, gelmen—indeed, gelmen, we ſhall never get through our buſineſs at this rate!—beſides, it is really irregular to wander from the point in this manner!"——Here a wag on the right ſide begged the honourable knight would not interrupt himſelf; for that it was truly indecent to ſuppoſe the court *diſorderly* before any one had uttered a ſyllable. "Well, gelmen, reſumed Sir Janus, I begs pardon, but, *event what it will*, *order* is ſo good a thing,

that I generally goes out of my way *in order* to ſpeak a few words to it; and, if what I have ſaid prevents the like *ill*-conveniency in other gelmen, I ſhall think *the idear thrown out, and* all my tedioufneſs beſides, well beſtowed on you, had I ten times as much as a friend of mine ſays*. Howſomdever, *having ſaid this*, the propoſal that I intends making is, to recommend the extraordinary merits and ſervices of my Lord Vulture to the gratitude of this court. *Having ſaid this* of the *ground work we go upon*, I declare, *event what it wul*, that no private views, no *ſiniſtral* intentions, no ſelfiſh expectation, *conduced* me to make it.—I ſay this, becauſe I have often been ſuſpected of corrupt dealings in the city; for I *war* in Guildhall when that *Idear* was thrown out; but, God he knows my heart, *nothing is more falſe!* I would, *therefore*, beg leave to move, that as you have as yet only given Lord Vulture about 500,000l. in money, and 30,000l. *per annum*, you would at laſt take ſhame to you, and give

* Dogberry.

him

him a reward more genteeler, and that may be adequate to his great ſufferings in your behalf, and to his important ſervices, which not only, *in the firſt inſtance*, regulate your affairs abroad, but even extend to the management of thoſe at home. All he aſks, is but a continuance of this paltry j-g--re for the reſt of his life, *event what it wul*, or make him a preſent of 300,000l. certain.——Some Gelmen may conceive this recompence as too large; but if we conſider the pleaſure he has left behind on *our* account; the dangers, the hardſhips, the diſtreſſes this worthy gelman has gone through to ſerve us, and the great advantages his ſervices have produced, we ought to grant it chearfully.—*I'll tell you how that* matter was preſently—Does any gelman ſuſpect the *idear thrown out?* does any one doubt theſe facts? ſurely not.—Has he not left his dearly beloved wife behind him, and a houſe (I *war* in it once) in what d'ye call the ſquare, fit for any lord of the land? I ſpeaks above board, becauſe many of our proud lords undervalue him on account of his fammaly, parentage, and education; when, God he knows, they have not a twentieth part of his

his wealth, and that's a thouſand times better, in my opinion, than their ancient fammaly, which I can tell them, is of very little value in the City. Beſides, has not his lordſhip riſked his life in a ſtinking pitchy ſhip amongſt a crew of ſea-officers, the low-livedeſt moſt vulgareſt fellows in the world? Did he not arrive in due time to prevent your other ſarvants from cheating and bamboozling you, indulging themſelves in every luxury, and living a moſt ſcandalous debauched life, without having the fear of God before their eyes, and being inſtigated by the Devil?—Did he not turn out every one of them who behaved themſelves croſs or ill-humoured, *whereby*, as he ſuppoſed, they might in time defraud you of your effects?—I ſay, Mr. Preſident, for all this and much more, he ought to be amply rewarded.——I ſhall ſpeak to this queſtion *in order*, when I have heard gentlemen's objections to it; in the mean time I will *ſet* down, *event what it wull*, till I ſee whether any body ſeconds it or not; for as it is entirely my own, I cannot tell whether his lordſhip's friends, (at this time Sir Janus looked very wiſhfully at Skeleton Scarecrow, Eſq; who ſat behind

him,

him, and gave him a ſmile of gracious conſent) well knowing his diſintereſtedneſs and generoſity, will incline to ſupport me in *the idear adopted*; but the thing is ſo reaſonable, that I can hardly think any man will be ſo bold as to make any objections to it."

The knight having cloſed his elegant and patriotic harangue, ſat done, as perfectly ſatisfied with his oratorial powers as the great Demagogue himſelf, when he rung the peal of *diſpenſing power* into the ears of his amazed audience!—He was immediately ſeconded by Shylock Buffaloe the Jew, who values himſelf on being deſcended in a direct line from one of thoſe miſcreants who crucified Jeſus. This circumciſed MEMBER aroſe, and addreſſing himſelf to the *ſeat* of the Preſident, proceeded as follows:

"Mr. Preſident, the honourable gentleman who made dis motion, ſat down to ſee if any Proprietor would ſecond it, and to hear vat objections ſhould be made to it; and, Sir, I ſtand up to ſecond his propoſal, and at ſame time to make vone objection

tion to it, dat ees, dat I tink it is too little, conſidering vat his lordſhip has done for us, out of his great courage and prudent management of our affairs both at home and abroad, as my wordy friend Sir Janus Blubber has obſerved.—Sir, I tink it would be ſuperfluous in me to ſay any ting of my Lord Vulture's good *qualifications*, de *influence* of which is *univerſally* felt in dis Court, as I believe is known *to all of us*"—(looking particularly at Skeleton Scarecrow, Eſq; Sir Janus, and Jaundice Braywell)—Here the offspring of Jacob was checked in his career by a ſarcaſtical queſtion from Oliver Outline, Eſq; who demanded an explanation of Shylock's laſt words. "The gentleman, ſaid he, expreſſed ſomething concerning my lord Vulture's *qualifications*, the influence of which he obſerved was felt by all of us—Now, I ſhould be glad to know, Mr. Preſident, whether by thoſe *qualifications* the gentleman means a certain number of votes, procured by ſplitting his lordſhip's ſtock, for the purpoſe of acquiring a majority in this houſe, to obtain a continuation of his j—g—re. I only requeſt this, Sir, becauſe Mr. Shylock's

remarks

remarks appeared to me somewhat ambiguous."——The swarthy Jew was conscious of his incapacity to cope with this satyrical antagonist, who is frequently as fortunate in managing the shafts of ridicule as in conducting the pencil that gives life to canvas; he therefore repressed his indignation at this sneer, when Caliban Clodpate, with a pocket-book and a multitude of papers in his hand, was observed to rise. This gentleman, who, as we are well informed, stands candidate for a Director of the affairs, if not for President, at the election, is really a very singular personage. There is, perhaps, not one countenance in this kingdom which bears a stronger resemblance to the understanding of its owner than that of Mr. Clodpate; for as there is an utter vacancy of meaning in the former, so is there a total stagnation of sentiment in the latter, which indeed contains little more than a few perverse and crooked maxims, calculated for the meridian of Change-alley, beyond which all the intellectual faculties are *terra incognita*. If he is at any time harmless to his fellow-creatures, it ought to be attributed rather to the natural heavi-

ness of his genius, than to any wanton vicious design; for he has vanity enough to think himself very cunning, and sly, and shrewd, particularly in the art of *jobbing*. He was born in a thick fog, and imbibed stupidity with his first breath. At school he was generally afflicted with a *weakness of head*; to remedy which, a sly rogue of a quack doctor prescribed him a large quantity of asses milk, which, instead of clearing his ideas, curdled in his brain, and incorporated with his skull, so as to make it soft and thick, forming at the same time a sort of *clod* or *custard* in his *pericranium*; from the first of which expressions his name was probably derived.

The midwife laid her hand on his thick skull,
With this prophetic blessing, *Be thou dull*.
DRYDEN.

But hear him speak for himself.—"Mr. President, the honourable gentleman near me who made the motion in favour of Lord Vulture, is so good a judge of these matters, that, upon my word, if the Directors

rectors have no objection, I am rather for ſupporting him in it too; for I profeſs if I had been ſent out on the ſame occaſion myſelf to (to be ſure the buſineſs of the nation could not have ſpared me, as being a notified member of the lower houſe, well verſed in all money matters) but having that, I ſay, I ſhould have got my jag reſpected to me. Does any body think it too much? I ſay it is *not*. *Why, zounds*, I could almoſt make as much in the alley, by giving a premium now and then to a gentleman *which* I have in *my eye*. I believe every man, if he were *in* the ſecret, would go *ſnacks* in ſharing the *crib*; at leaſt if he has not ſenſe enough to do that, he is not fit to be thrive on. It was always a maxim of mine, that if a man cannot manage his own buſineſs, he will never be able to conduct another's. Now, Sir, although I have ſometimes been unlucky, I will give you a few examples of my knowledge of I-d-a affairs, at leaſt what regards the improvement of ſtock; after which no gentleman, I believe, will venture to ſay I am ignorant therein; when I have explained myſelf, it will certainly be con-

feſſed, that my plans have been uniform and conſiſtent, at leaſt with regard to my own intereſt; from which an inference may be drawn of my management of the Proprietors intereſt, ſhould I ſucceed in my poll for the election. In June laſt I was the greateſt *bull* in Amſterdam or Change-alley, and therefore propoſed to raiſe the dividend; but unfortunately for me, the Company had not at that time received one farthing from their acquiſitions, which occaſioned my transformation into a *Bear*; and accordingly in September following I oppoſed raiſing the dividend, but without ſucceſs; for, to my great aſtoniſhment, the Company, between thoſe two periods, had received near three millions in effect from I—a. This produced my ſecond metamorphoſis,—that is, my ſecond change (looking at Sir Janus and Sir Judas Venom, who looked blank at that expreſſion) into a Bull; ſo that when ſome Proprietors propoſed a plan to make our ſtock worth 320*l.* I vigorouſly oppoſed it, declaring to all the world I thought the ſtock worth 500*l.* Some offers to admit me into the direction, have given me new lights into

your

your affairs; but I must not betray my trust. —— I may venture, however, to assure the Proprietors, that the stock is not worth above 200*l.* It will be therefore necessary to have no increase of the dividend for some time. —— I would have every thing left now to the management of the Directors, without revealing their secrets to the Proprietors, who are often too busy and meddling. By this scheme, I believe, I may reasonably expect, with my knowledge of stock-jobbing, to make at least 30,000*l.* by every advance of two *per cent.* on the dividend, having possession of that great emolument of Directors, *the raising the interest when we please.*"

Here a great tumult of calling for the question, prevented any reply to Cloudpate's harangue, which may stand as a perpetual example for all dunces to speak without fear of being hissed.

At the first interval of this uproar, Oliver Outline stood up, and proceeded: "Mr. Chairman, with regard to what the gentleman who spoke last has said of stock-

jobbing

jobbing in general, and of himself in particular, there appears very little answer necessary thereto. He has informed us of the frequent transmutations he has made from bear to bull, and from bull to bear; but I believe the change has never been so completely effected, as not to leave this gentleman strongly characterised by the mutual qualities of those animals: but as to the present proposed to be made to my lord Vulture, I apprehend it will be carried *unanimously*. Sir, the amiable qualities of his lordship's heart intitle him to a greater reward, if he had no other merit. But has he not fought all our battles for little or nothing? Has he not paid the greatest obedience to all our commands, and the highest deference to our authority? Has he not governed with the greatest clemency, generosity and humanity? Some censorious people, indeed, have accused my Lord Vulture of avarice, cruelty and tyranny; but these things, I am told by a gentleman present (looking at Skeleton Scarecrow, Esq;) are not true: it is therefore to be hoped such prejudices will be removed by the knight's persuasive eloquence. Indeed, for

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my own part, I cannot help conceiving that the motion has been dictated by ſome preternatural influence, ſince nothing leſs than inſpiration could have enabled that worthy member to exert ſuch amazing powers of rhetoric, when we conſider, that by ſome ſcandalous neglect in his education, he cannot ſpell a ſentence of his vernacular tongue, although it ſtands upon the records of Guildhall, that he has been many years in the profeſſion of vending ſpelling-books; during which time, however, it has been ſaid, that he never beheld his own likeneſs, although he ſuſpended a looking-glaſs over his ſhop-window!—— The cry of, *To order! to order!* interrupted this gentleman in his career, who by the bye is not eaſily ſilenced on theſe occaſions. He heard the clamour with great intrepidity of countenance, and continued, "Mr. Chairman, I *will* be heard. The gentlemen are extremely miſtaken, if they expect to divert my attention from its object by this clamorous method of interruption, which is certainly peculiar to themſelves."—— Here a repetition of the knocking of ſticks, hooting and hiſſing again, teſtified the reſentment

ſentment of this well-bred ſociety. — Mr. Outline heard the tumult with great patience and fortitude; and when they had ceaſed, began——"Sir, I am no more ſurpriſed at the reſentment and diſguſt expreſſed by many in this houſe at my ſentiments, than in their manner of exhibiting it. Providence, Sir, has endued different animals with different qualities, accompanied with a tone of voice ſimilar to their natures; therefore every animal expreſſes its diſguſt in a manner peculiar to itſelf. Hence we hear the grunting of hogs, the croaking of toads, the braying of aſſes, and the hiſſing of ſerpents."——

At the pronouncing this laſt expreſſion, four or five gentlemen roſe at once—Chriſtian reader, in the bowels of mercy pardon the compiler of theſe ſpeeches, if he ſhould, amidſt this univerſal tumult and uproar, miſtake the number, or forget any thing of importance, which may have fallen from his actors, while his ears are ſtunned with a ſavage clamour that reſembles the anarchy of chaos, more than a ſociety of human two-legged beings. He has endeavoured to retain all that memory could

could ſupport, which is ſtill oppreſſed with a redundancy of heterogeneous materials.

The gentlemen who ſtood up on this occaſion, calling out all at once, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, were Jaundice Braywell, Eſq; Caliban Clodpate, Eſq; Sir Judas Venom, and Donald Machaggies, who imagined themſelves particularly pointed at by Mr. Outline's animals. Meſſrs. Braywell and Clodpate ſuppoſed themſelves attacked in the character of the aſs: the former, however, inſiſted that if he had meant Mr. Clodpate, there would have been ſome alluſion to a bull or a bear—no, Sir, depend upon it he ſtrikes at me, and therefore I am determined to anſwer—— Sir, Mr. Chairman; *Good God*, Mr. Chairman——He was ſtopped by Sir Judas Venom, who was convinced that the croaking of the toad muſt be intended for him; and addreſſing himſelf to the bench; I ſay, Mr. Chairman—The poor Preſident, half diſtracted, knocked with his mallet; For God's ſake, gentlemen, ſpeak one at once: to order, gentlemen; for ſhame, gentlemen! Braywell nodding his head, and ſtretching out his neck, de-

manded of the chair to call upon the gentleman who roſe firſt.— Sir, I am not poſitively certain, but, according to the beſt of my remembrance, it was Mr. Machaggies. The perſon called upon was explained to the collector of theſe Debates to be a native of a certain part of this iſland,

Where half-ſtarv'd ſpiders feed on half-ſtarv'd flies. CHURCHILL.

He was eſteemed a very clumſy orator in his own country, and accordingly came to England, the general rendezvous of the dunces of every nation.——It is not certain whether his firſt deſign was not to teach the natives of South Britain to ſpeak proper Engliſh; at which he is certainly very expert. He has of late been employed as an engine of faction by lord Gawkee; not to extinguiſh, but to awaken the flames of diſcord; and, as he generally mouthes in the cauſe of corruption, he may be compared to a carcaſe, which is kept afloat by the wind engendered in the ſtate of putrefaction.—— His lungs are an everlaſting bellows, which can blow hot or cold as his neceſſity requires,

quires, which is often very urgent: he is, therefore, esteemed an excellent *Swiss* on all occasions. It is totally indifferent to him whatever fate befals the Company, since he has only two points to serve, *viz.* to defend the *direction*, and abuse the *administration*; and were the flames of ruin kindled to destroy the Company's effects, he will be ready as a *faggot* to increase the general ruin.——He proceeded as follows:

"Sir, I speak to order; for I am much mistaken if what that gentleman observed concerning the different declarations of disgust amongst several animals is not pointed at particular persons—and I will venture to assert, that what he said about the hog alludes to me, which almost amounts to defamation in *law*.——Sir, I have the greatest reason to be confirmed in this opinion, because the boys at school had always nicknamed me Grunting Donald; (here our orator exalted his voice into a most deplorable whine, which participated of the methodistical twang and the *Irish* howl); I say, Sir, the boys at school called me Grunting Donald, and harrassed and teazed me so often with this name, that I found it con-

venient to retire hither to assist this suffering country, and to improve the *language*, by my eloquence and genius, which enabled me to speak in favour of lord Gawkee, and to attack the ministry in the North Briton, after Jack Squintum *retired from business*: and, Sir, I think it very unseemly to rip up old affairs *within these walls*, or insinuate any thing to the prejudice of a stranger, or to propagate a name which ought to be buried in oblivion"——

This personage, who never finished a speech without being repeatedly hissed, was now interrupted by a gentleman, who was suspected to be an enemy to the motion made by Sir Janus Blubber. The eyes of the assembly were immediately turned on him, who was named George Manly, Esq; and he began as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, when a question of so great moment as the making a present out of our capital stock of 300,000*l.* is proposed and seconded in this Company, it becomes too serious an affair to admit of controversies totally foreign to the subject.—I will therefore, Sir, call that gentleman to

order, who ſeems, as uſual to be wandering from the queſtion, to procraſtinate the buſineſs of the day.——I ſpeak as a Proprietor intereſted in the debate, and warmly attached to the proſperity of the Company; therefore the affected gratitude, the oſtentatious pretentions of generoſity, aſſumed by ſome gentlemen in this Society, will have very little influence on my reſolutions. Sir, I have liſtened, with equal attention and aſtoniſhment, to the motion, and the ſupport it has received from ſome gentlemen preſent. It was ſeconded, indeed, by a member (looking at Shylock) whoſe heart appears, for the firſt time, to have felt the influence of generoſity.——I am afraid, Sir, that there is ſomething myſterious lurking behind this parade of *important ſervices*, which really appear to be exaggerated by a fulſome adulation, to dazzle the judicious, and blind the ignorant. It is therefore, Sir, with the greateſt regret that I find myſelf compelled, during my lord Vulture's abſence, to enter into any examination relative to thoſe ſervices ſo pompouſly diſplayed, which may leſſen that idea of them that is endeavoured to be impoſed on our underſtandings by deſigning

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and artful men. Were his lordſhip preſent, I ſhould, perhaps, puſh an enquiry more deeply into his avarice and oppreſſion, his arbitrary and tyrannical management of our affairs; his inſolence, inhumanity, and breach of order; I ſhould then be happy in furniſhing him with an opportunity of anſwering ſome of thoſe accuſations which may be one day laid to his charge: at preſent, however, I ſhall content myſelf with a ſimple detail of facts which cannot be controverted*. If this is granted, as indeed it cannot be denied or even doubted, what motive can influence us to be ſo liberal, at a time when ſo important, ſo alarming a criſis approaches, as that of an accommodation with government.—Is my lord Vulture in any neceſſity? His eſtate in England, I believe, is generally allowed to produce 20,000l. *per annum*; I ſhall take it at ten.—His j-g--re is thirty.—His allowance, as governor of B——l, is 6000l. beſides his expences, which are

* I ſhall not inſiſt on the circumſtance of his Lordſhip's being aſleep at the battle of P——y, becauſe the ſtory is too *trite*. But nothing is more certain, than that all the operations of war were ſucceſsfully concluded before his arrival, when he actually found the defeated N—b a priſoner in our camp.

ſaid

ſaid to be twenty more. But to avoid the appearance of want of candour, I ſhall ſtate it at ſix only; that is 46,000 l.—His part of the monopoly of ſalt, beetle-nut and tobacco trade, will be readily granted 60,000; I will call it 50. Thus, Sir, his annual income is at leaſt 96,000l. Will any gentleman here offer to contradict this? (A total ſilence appeared all round on this queſtion.) Well, Sir, if this is granted, I ſhall demand what neceſſity there is for contributing ſo largely to his advantage at ſo dangerous a time?"

Here Skeleton Scarecrow ſtood up, and, with a rueful countenance, fixing himſelf obliquely towards the bench, and inſinuating his hand downwards under his waiſtband, in the ſame attitude with a celebrated prelate in the upper houſe, who obſerved that he had ſomething in his hand for the benefit of widows*, he began, ſlow and obſcure like the ſtreams of Fleet-ditch, "Mr. Chairman, the gentleman has mentioned ſomething of this-*here* requeſt being ill-timed; but, Sir, I will maintain, as it is

* A wag obſerving his ſingular poſture remarked, that in the ſincerity of his *affection* for Lord Vulture he would leave no *ſtone unturned* to ſerve him.

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my duty to do, thot it cannot be better-timed.——My Lord Vulture deſerves it——ſo that no time can be improper when it is in our power.——His conſtitution has been greatly impaired in this-here ſervice: perhaps, Sir, (here the gentleman pauſed, and with a deplorable length of viſage which might have been miſtaken for that of the famous knight of La Mancha) I ſay, perhaps, Sir, he is now no more——!"

Suſpence and ſilence reigned over the whole aſſembly; but in vain did Mr. Scarecrow look round to ſee if any one would heave a ſigh, or ſhed a tear: not one eſcaped from the unrelenting Society at this melancholy inſinuation; not one, except a ſingle groan which iſſued from the breaſt of Shylock the Jew, who knowing his lordſhip's firm attachment to the Chriſtian doctrines, and therefore verily believing him in a ſtate of perdition, exclaimed, *Alas, what will become of his miſerable ſoul?*

Mr. Manly proceeded: "Sir, I have been laid under the neceſſity of ſtripping theſe boaſted ſervices of the tawdry glare which has been caſt over them by the honourable knight, like tinſel lace on a frize coat. It

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is very natural, indeed, Sir, that all who are friends to you in the direction, will readily obey your nod, and endeavour to ſupport this propoſition; but you will recollect that the election approaches, and that the impartiality of your behaviour is the moſt natural method of recommending yourſelves to the choice of reſpectable and independant Proprietors. In the mean time, Sir, I will make a motion, which I apprehend will be thought much more ſuitable to our preſent ſituation, and that is, to adjourn the queſtion."

This motion being ſeconded, the Company divided thereon, and a majority appeared againſt the adjournment.——After which Jaundice Braywell aroſe to ſpeak. He has been generally obſerved to ſtretch out his neck, and nod with his head towards the Preſident; a motion which ſome of his friends attribute to a ſudden retreat of his ſenſe or genius to the back part of his ſkull in the act of haranguing, after which the vacant ſpace is immediately occupied by Dulneſs, a circumſtance he ſeems

to be perfectly conſcious of which occaſions a more violent repetition of the motion to bring back the departed power to its place; but in this attempt he is commonly unſucceſsful, which exaſperates him to a degree of phrenzy, inſomuch that he will foam and rave like a lunatic; but the gentle goddeſs of Dulneſs, cautious of the health of this beloved ſon, converts his brain into a ſort of limbec, from which ſhe diſtils ſuch a copious balſamic ſtream of nonſenſe, as entirely allays the inflammation produced in his organs of ſpeech. It has been ſaid, that he and Clodpate were twin-children of Dulneſs; but Braywell is undoubtedly the firſt-born and the favourite boy. He ſtood up—"Mr. Preſident, I have not patience to hear this affair debated ſo formally—*Good God*, what would gentlemen wiſh to adjourn the Court for, in the midſt of ſo conſequential a queſtion? Will any man ſay that lord Vulture has not deſerved ſuch a *rewaird*? Sir, I have a letter in my pocket from his lordſhip, in which he aſſures me of his great regard to the Company.—Nay, Sir, he

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ſwears *by the God that made him*, that he loves every one of them ſo well, that he would ſooner come home a beggar than hurt a hair of their heads, if they will only give him this trifle of 300,000l. but if they will not be perſuaded, he will exert the utmoſt rigour of the law againſt them, and has given orders to his *attornies accordingly*—ſo you ſee what we have to expect.—He has ſacrificed his health, and all that is dear to him, on our account and ſhall we heſitate a minute?—for ſhame, gentlemen—*Good God!* let us do it at once—don't think of adjourning—I am for putting it to the vote directly, as we ſeem to have a majority—let us do things *effectually*, and ſettle this j—g—re at once on him for good and all—*Good God*, it is a trifle of a *rewaird:* let us try the force of his friends directly."——Having pronounced theſe words, the mother-goddeſs beamed on him with the fulneſs of her ſtupidity, and his cadaverous countenance reflected her features with the trueſt reſemblance imaginable.

In the mean time Mr. Manly aroſe the third time, and, looking towards the Preſident, proceeded — "Mr. Chairman, from the firſt moment that this very ſingular propoſition was offered to the conſideration of the Company, I have oppoſed it, and ſhall certainly exert every influenc in my power to prevent ſo pernicious and dreadful a ſcheme from taking effect—a ſcheme which involves the moſt fatal conſequences in its train, and is big with ruin to the intereſt of this Society—but it may be neceſſary, Sir, to mention ſome thing of the extraordinary behaviour of the Directors on this diviſion, which teſtifies the moſt unbecoming and even indecent partiality. I hope, Sir, it will not offend the honourable knight, by being *diſorderly*, if I ſhould venture to aſk why the Directors ſhould precipitately haſten from their ſeats, and appear as the foremoſt to influence their own dependants in a ſcandalous confederacy to plunder and ſtrip us without our conſent.—I vow to God, Sir, this ſhameleſs and barefaced conſpiracy almoſt deprives me of that ſenſe of deference

deference which I ſhould ever pay to office, were it conſiſtent with propriety and juſtice; but ſo evident, ſo glaring an avowal of the ſentiments of an intereſted dependant faction, ſummoned by your nod, appears to me like the advances of a troop of deſperate banditti, when ſummoned by the whiſtle of their ſpies, to rob the unſuſpecting traveller when he is not prepared to withſtand them."

Theſe expreſſions operated powerfully on the oppoſite faction, who were exaſperated to the higheſt degree of reſentment. Sir Judas Venom, who has the true appearance of a Portugueſe aſſaſſin, changed colour, the ſallow hue of his viſage being inſtantly converted into a deeper brown.—The whole expreſſion of his countenance proclaimed him ripe for *treaſons, ſtratagems and ſpoils.* — The ſhaft of Ridicule would fall blunted on ſuch an object—Sincerity and Honour recoil as he approaches, and Indignation ſtarts from her couch to brandiſh a whip of ſcorpions over him, and is only withheld by Contempt from laying

laying her ſcourge on this foe to humanity and public faith.

In the mean time Machaggies ſtood forth and addreſſed the Preſident—"Sir, I cannot help obſerving, that this gentleman often forgets the reſpect due from this Company to the Preſident while *within theſe walls*. This is an attack ſo open and ſo notorious, that it ought not to be paſſed over without the cenſure of the Court: I would therefore move that"——Machaggies was ſtopped in his diſcourſe by Mr. Manly, who proceeded: "Mr. Chairman, I am very little diſturbed at what that gentleman has ſuggeſted relative to the cenſure of the Court: it is with the greateſt regret that I find myſelf ſometimes involuntarily betrayed by the warmth of indignation againſt unworthy actions, to drop an expreſſion that appears like indecency.—I will, however, tell that gentleman, that he has undeſignedly paid me a compliment in ſaying my attack was *open*, becauſe it furniſhes the adverſaries of our intereſt with an opportunity to anſwer for themſelves,

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and to vindicate their conduct. A cool, cautious, inſinuating treachery would have enabled me to carry on hoſtility in a more ſlow and ſilent manner, by the *mine* or the *ſap*, ſo as not to be diſcovered: I could then have ſkulked behind the liberty of the preſs, and aſſaſſinated the character of men of worth under the cloak of an anonymous pamphlet."

At the mention of theſe words, a gentleman near the Preſident turned pale, and ſlunk back in his chair.—In the mean time Machaggies, as if conſcious of a ſimilar guilt, was unhappily ſeduced into an indirect acknowledgment thereof, and replied, "Mr. Chairman, what the gentleman has hinted with regard to anonymous pamphlets, ſeemed to glance at me." An univerſal laugh interrupted the denial or confeſſion of the unfortunate Machaggies; who proceeded: "But, Sir, I declare it was not me who wrote what the gentleman alludes to; for I have not written in the newspapers, or even ſeen them, for many months *laſt paſt*; nor did I ever read a

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line of the pamphlet."——Here a general ſhout of laughter again interrupted Donald, and gave him ſome time to recover from his confuſion, when he had well nigh revealed ſome hidden treaſon.

Manley again ſtood up, and continued: "Sir, I will not pretend to divine the cauſe of the gentleman's embarraſſment on this occaſion, which really appears a little myſterious, and unavoidably begets a ſuſpicion not greatly to his honour.—I will, however, give him the ſatisfaction to underſtand, that I did not by any means allude to *him*.— Were it neceſſary, Sir, to apologize for the impropriety of any expreſſion uſed to our council, who are at the ſame time our ſervants, it would certainly be much more neceſſary for them to act in ſuch a fair, candid, upright and impartial manner, as to deſerve no cenſure from the Proprietors. But it is almoſt impoſſible to preſerve a tolerable degree of temper, when one obſerves ſuch a deep-laid confederacy exerting all its influence to introduce miſchiefs of the moſt fatal tendency amongſt us,

us, when we ſee an intereſted, undermining faction aſſociated to wreſt our property from us againſt our conſent, and in direct violation of the liberty of the ſubject? We ought, Sir, to trace the ſecret windings of this dangerous mine before the train is laid, before it is ready to ſpring upon us, to overturn the foundations of our intereſt, and involve our commerce and capital in a general ruin. Can we look tamely on, in ſo alarming a ſituation? What would any one think of a pilot who would deſert the helm in a ſtormy ſea, when the veſſel is expoſed to all the horrors of ſhipwreck, unleſs the merchant would conſent to double his wages in that perilous and alarming hour? And what ſhall we think of a man, who is at this hour in our own ſervice, poſſeſſed of an income more than double that of the moſt ancient and noble families in England, all which he has acquired in our ſervice, and who ſhall yet demand more? who ſhall inſiſt on a continuance of this enormous j--g--re, in defiance of every independent and impartial Proprietor? Shall we tamely behold all

his engines employed in every dark practice of promiſes and threats, of corruption and proſtitution, to procure a majority of votes in his favour, to eſtabliſh a precedent that ſtrikes at the very root of our exiſtence? Shall we exalt the deſtructive engineer ſo high above us, as to place him out of the reach of law, and inacceſſible to the ſcourge of juſtice?——Shall we fall proſtrate, and adore the rapacious idol we have formed? who is deified by his own pride, and our profuſion of generoſity?——Were we to grant this, Sir, I know not where ſo laviſh a prodigality would end. For ſhame, gentlemen, rouſe from this lethargy, which ſeems to overwhelm you! I ſpeak to the Proprietors, as men invaded by all the ſtratagems of a corrupt and venal faction, conſiſting of the intereſted partizans and the dependant tools of this mercenary tyrant, whoſe arbitrary behaviour to all our other ſervants has ſhewed him utterly deaf to every ſentiment of juſtice or humanity. I call upon them as men to reſent ſuch an infamous inſult upon their underſtandings; to exert the firſt law of nature, that of

ſelf-defence, implanted by the hand of Heaven in every breaſt: I exhort them, as members of ſociety, to be cautious how they venture to ſquander the effects of their fellow-ſufferers, who are now abſent, and who expect their friendly interpoſition to defend them from the exorbitant deſires, to reſcue their effects from the luxury, the extravagance, the wanton profuſion of this inſatiable harpy, whoſe ambition is unparalleled, and whoſe avarice knows no bounds.

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[Diligent ſearch is making after more of theſe Orations, which we do not deſpair of communicating in due time.]

BRITAN